

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PC-05 AID-05 ACDA-10 SCSE-00 OPR-02 MMO-04
MC-02 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 /128 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:LAR

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

-----300144Z 040401 /14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - MARCH 29

1. FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE MARCH 29
DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING.

2. Q. IT WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY ABOUT THE FALL OF THE
TOWN OF MUTSHATSHA AND SINCE THEN THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT
IS STILL HOLDING THAT TOWN.

A. I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT.

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3. Q. ANOTHER STORY, STILL IN ZAIRE. THE CULTURAL
ATTACHE IN INGA-SHABA HAS REPORTED EVACUATION OF 41 U.S.
IN GENEVA (SIC) AND 20 IN KOLWEZI. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT INGA-SHABA HAS BEEN MAKING CONTINGEN-
CY PLANS TO EVACUATE ITS PERSONNEL FROM KOLWEZI. I DON'T

KNOW WHETHER THAT DECISION HAS ACTUALLY BEEN MADE OR NOT, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF.

4. Q. DON'T YOU THINK THE SITUATION IS WORSENING IN ZAIRE?

A: I WOULDN'T WANT TO GIVE ANY EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION. I STUDIOUSLY REFRAIN FROM DOING THAT.

A: AND I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE POSITION OF GIVING YOU A DAY BY DAY MILITARY EVALUATION.

5. Q: I THOUGHT YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT MUTSHATSHA HAS FALLEN?

A: THAT IS THE REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED.

6. Q: HAVE YOU MADE A RECOMMENDATION ABOUT THE EVACUATION -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE HAVE MADE A RECOMMENDATION OR NOT. WE ARE CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE INGA-SHABA'S CONTINGENCY PLAN.

7. Q: ARE THESE PEOPLE ADVANCING ON KOLWEZI?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T GIVE YOU MUCH ON THE MILITARY SITUATION.
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8. Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A RECONSIDERATION OF FULFILLING THE REQUEST TO SEND SMALL ARMS TO ZAIRE?

A: I HAVEN'T EVER CONFIRMED---

9. Q: APPARENTLY UP TO NOW WE HAVE NOT ACCORDING TO THE ADMINISTRATION, SHIPPED WEAPONRY TO ZAIRE.

A: THAT IS CORRECT. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS SITUATION.

10. Q: YES. IS THERE NOW A PLAN TO SHIP WEAPONRY?

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

11. Q. FRED, HAVE YOU MADE A DECISION ON THEIR SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST?

A. NO.

12. Q. FRED, IS THERE A DECISION TO FREEZE THE SHIPMENTS THAT WERE IN THE PIPELINE BEFORE THE SITUATION DEVELOPED?

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

13. Q. THERE WERE NO ARMS?

A. SOME OF THE THINGS SENT IN THE FIRST, IN THE INITIAL TWO PLANE LOADS OF MATERIAL WERE PART OF THE PIPELINE OR A SUBSTITUTION FOR ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE OR ALREADY BEING DRAWN DOWN AGAINST FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

14.Q.YOU HAVE NOT CONTACTED OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS OR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT CONTACTED YOU ABOUT THIS MATTER?

A. "THIS MATTER" BEING?

15. Q. VERY SIMILAR TO THE NIGERIAN ONE.

A. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE NOW. I PRESUME WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS ON THE NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS ON IT. BUT, I PRESUME WE ARE HAVING THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ON THE SUBJECT, YES.

16. Q. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE ANGOLANS SO FAR?

A. NO.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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